GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2677
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
RECOGNITION TO HINDI
MAHESHWAR SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not granting recognition to Hindi by UNO;

(b) whether the Union Government have made any efforts to get Hindi recognised in the UNO;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) to (d) At present the United Nations has six Official Languages viz. English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and ChineseThe introduction of an additional Official Language is governed by the established Rules of Procedure of the Organization and would require the approval of majority of Member States of the United Nations i.e., 93 of the 185 Members.This would require amendment in Rule 51 (specifying the Official and Working Languages) of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations General Assembly.

An important consideration in getting adequate support would be the number of national delegations who use the language and the additional financial implications for the Member States of the United Nations for such a move.The introduction of an additional Official Language would involve significant expenditure from the regular budget of the United Nations which is solely financed by the Member States. Article 17(2) of the Chapter provides that `the expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly`.

For the last several years translation facilities are being provided by Government of India to the leader and members of the Indian Delegation who wish to address the UNGA in Hindi during the United Nations General Assembly Sessions.

Government has taken up with member countries with large Hindi Speaking populations to assess their general reaction to the proposal for making Hindi as one of the Official Languages of the United Nations.